

To: Carolyn Layton

From: Scott Thomas, Jr

J.J.

CHANNEL 5 NEWS AT 7:00P.M. REPORTER: BILL SCHECHNER. \* 8/18/77 THUR.

NEWSCASERER: The churches 3500 hundred acre operation in Guanya on the north coast of South Africa. The church says it's an agricultural experiment station. But former members paint a grimmer picture of the jungle out post. So far no news media has been allowed to go in there, but today Eyewitness News was able to get some picture of the place and Bill Schechner now has this report.

BILL SCHECHNER: The picture we are going to show you are a dozens or so of several hundred that was taken by Eugene Chalkin, who is a church member for six yrs and also has done some legal work for the church. We operated under a couple of ground rules. The main thing we agree not to talk about the controversial swearing around People's Temple at the moment. For another all I know about these pictures is that I was told that these are pictures of People's Temple agricultural mission in Guyana. I talk to Gene Chalkin about them and here's what he said and some of the pictures that he took.

Eugene Chalkin: The world is a hungry place today. There's constantly projections that there going be mass starvation around the world and we thought that whatever contribution we could make, we better try to improve production in the tropics because that's the area of the world where food production is worse.

Bill Schechner: You have options on whether large tracts. If your techniques work out and you were to develop that tract, you will then be in the food business. Is that the long term goal?

Eugene Chalkin: No. We're not really interested... It's not an money making project. We're not interested in going down there for the purpose of competing with Safeways stores or what have you. Our purpose is to develop the affective food production. We have a organization for all of our work activities, just like any organization would. We have the agricultural divided up. For example: A group of

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Eugene Chalkin: people who involve in a citrus industrial development and some of them organize in a group that grow citrus trees from seed and then they go through the whole process and there's other end up driving tractors and planting and harvesting . Other's are involve in the construction industrial . Other's are involve in food processing.

Bill Schechner: Are people paid for their labor?

Eugene Chalkin: No, They're not.

Bill Schechner: Do they paid to be there?

Eugene Chalkin: No they don't.

Bill Schechner: Is there any term for which an individual signs up when he or she goes there .

Eugene Chalkin: No.

Bill Schechner: Are the people who go there -there voluntary?

Eugene Chalkin: Yes, they are.

Bill Schechner: Are the people who are there now free to leave if they choose to ?

Eugene Chalkin: Absoutely.

Bill Schechner: Anyone there now if they wanted to could leave and come back?

Eugene Chalkin: Sure.

Bill Schechner: If a individual whose was there decided to go and they have no fund , would the Temple makefund available to them to return them to the United States.

Eugene Ch lkin: Sure.

Bill Schechner: So far the press has not been allowed in. But Temple officals said today that it is there plan to let the press in sometime in the next s week. In S.F. ,  
Bill Schechner , channel 5- Eyewitness News

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CHANNEL 9 NEWS AT 7:30 P.M. NEWSCASTER: CAROLYN CRAVEN. 3/18/77 THUR

NEWSCASTER: In a press statement issued today, People's Temple denied stories of the mass exodus of their members to the church's 27 thousand acre ranch in Guyana in South America. The release stated that reports of the exodus up power the quote: bias and sensational reporting that was characterize recent coverage of the Temple. In recent weeks NewsWest Magazine and others has published stories from former church members, charging the church and it's leader: the Rev. Jim Jones with beating and taking large sum of money from it's members. Jones, THE Temple. says i. in Guyana and to ill to return to San Franciscoto answer the charges. Today's release said however -that the church encourage those who wish to move to their agricultural project. But it said with nearly 9 thousand members of the church in northern California, all of them can- not go to Guyana.

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